

REMARKS:

I. General

Claims 3-6, 8-13, 15-16 and 18 - 22 are pending in the application. The issues in the Office Action mailed July 28, 2008 are as follows:

- Claims 3-6, 8, 11-13, 18, 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Satoh in view of Postenen.
- Claims 9-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Satoh in view of Postenen and further in view of Besel.
- Claims 14, 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Satoh in view of Postenen and further in view of Miner.

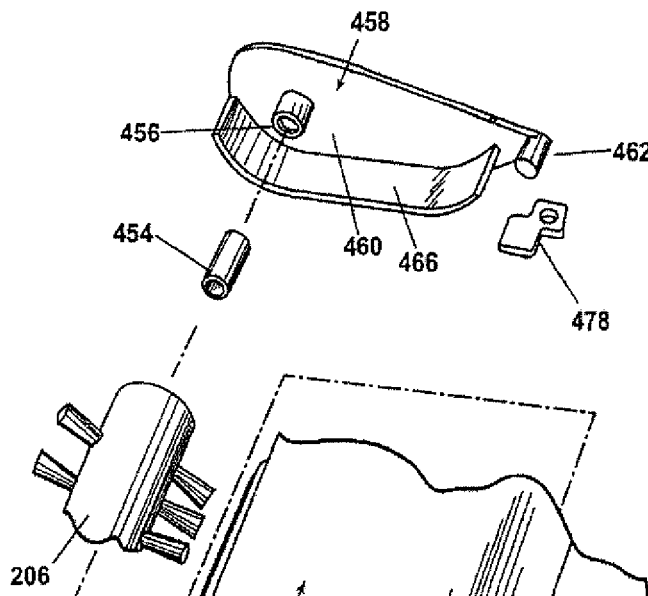
Applicant hereby traverses the outstanding rejections and objections and requests reconsideration and withdrawal in light of the remarks and amendments contained herein.

II. 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Rejections

Regarding claims 3-6, 8, 12, 13, 15, 16, 18-20 and 22, it is submitted that the combination of Satoh and Postenen and Miner, even if proper, would fail to yield all limitations of the present invention. In particular, neither Satoh nor Postenen nor Minor teach or suggest claim limitations relating to a drip guard. The amended claims include the limitation of contacting the cleaning medium with a drip guard, said drip guard extending substantially across a length of said cleaning medium, and said drip guard redirecting

cleaning solution thrown from the revolving cleaning medium back onto the cleaning medium, thereby preventing droplets of cleaning solution from falling onto the surface intended to be cleaned.

Brush guard 466 of Miner purportedly protects ends of brush 206 from damage. The brush guard 466 does not extend across the length of the cleaning medium, see Fig. 5a reproduced below. Instead, brush guards 466 appear to protect only the end portions of brush 206. Additionally, it is unclear whether brush 206 is actually in contact with the surface of guard 466.



The device of Miner would be incapable of performing its function if brush guard 466 extended across the length of brushes 206 (the guard would prevent brush 206 from contacting a surface to be cleaned). As the combination of references does not teach or suggest the limitations of these claims, reconsideration of the rejection under 103(a) is requested.

Regarding claim 9, the references do not teach or suggest a pair of cylindrical cleaning elements which other are brought into contact with each other as the cleaning medium revolves.

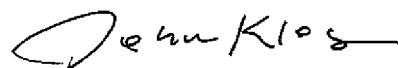
Regarding claim 11, the references do not teach or suggest spraying cleaning solution with a spray nozzle located above said pair of cylindrical cleaning elements, and sprayed cleaning solution is prevented from being directly sprayed onto the surface intended to be cleaned.

No new matter has been added by these amendments. Support for the drip guard limitation is found, for example, at page 8 of the specification. Support for the spray nozzle-related limitations is found, for example, at page 7 and Figure 1.

III. Conclusion

In view of the above amendment, Applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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